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RE: Governor's Proposed Budget

Esteemed Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Danielle Morgan and I am a member of the Board of Directors of HAVEN. I am also a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner who serves as a member of the medical staff of an inpatient detox where we provide a whole range of substance abuse and psychiatric services for citizens of Connecticut.

Since 2007, HAVEN has offered support and treatment/advocacy to more than 1000 health care providers in Connecticut, alleviating the burden of resources from the DPH and establishing a safe and confidential system of care for our medical service professionals in their time of need.

As the need for these services has grown over the years with the growing trend of substance abuse and mandated reporting taking effect October, 2015, the medical professional organizations agreed to increase our licensing fees \$5 for the sole purpose of supporting HAVEN's growing needs.

Since the collection of these increased fees by the DPH in excess of \$800,000, the DPH has withheld those funds from HAVEN. Commissioner Pino consistently refuses to meet with HAVEN. A meeting with AG Jepsen confirmed existing law that the DPH may not call back funds based on its own budget needs.

We are now learning through this budget proposal that the Governor is asking for a repeal of mandated reporting and to keep the \$5 fees collected in the general fund. Taking funds from this successful program whose goal remains to "care for our caregivers" in their most vulnerable times is, by definition, negligent on the part of our state's leadership.

Additionally, to suggest that mandated reporting is unnecessary is to turn a blind eye to potentially impaired providers and put their patients at risk. This is wholly unethical. Please allow HAVEN to continue the amazing work it provides daily for Connecticut's providers and allow Connecticut's providers to take part in funding that effort.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Morgan, MSN, CNS, Family PMHNP, APRN-BC